

### Amendments to the Claims

In response to the Official Action and in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121(c), please enter the following rewritten claims.

1. *(Currently Amended)* A scrubbing device, comprising:
  - a. an elongate handle, said handle having an upper end and a lower end, a forward side and a rearward side, and a periphery, wherein at least said lower end is adapted for grasping by a user,

said upper end of said handle having a slot therein, said slot having a ~~terminus that extends to a slot opening in~~ said periphery of said handle upper end and said slot being oriented substantially parallel to a center longitudinal axis of said handle,

wherein said handle has at least one retaining slit therein, said at least one retaining slit being proximate to said slot, being oriented at an angle greater than about 90° with respect to said slot, and having a slit opening in ~~terminus that extends to~~ said periphery of said handle upper end; and,
  - b. a porous scrubbing material, said scrubbing material having an attaching cord affixed thereto, whereby said attaching cord is adapted to pass through said slot and engage said retaining slit, thereby removably fastening said scrubbing material to said handle.

2.     *(Original)* A scrubbing device according to Claim 1, wherein said attaching cord is selected from a group consisting of string, twine, a ribbon, a metal chain, a plastic chain, a rope, and an elastic band.
3.     *(Original)* A scrubbing device according to Claim 1, wherein said attaching cord is removably attached to said scrubbing material.
4.     *(Original)* A scrubbing device according to Claim 1, wherein said scrubbing material is selected from a group consisting of a sponge, a mesh netting, a washcloth, and a brush.
5.     *(Original)* A scrubbing device according to Claim 1, wherein said upper end of said handle is outwardly flared at its terminus.
6.     *(Original)* A scrubbing device according to Claim 1, wherein at least one of said retaining slits has a left interior face and a right interior face, and wherein said left interior face has a left central ridge extending outwardly therefrom, and wherein said right interior face has a right central ridge extending outwardly therefrom, said left and right central ridges being at least approximately in alignment with and opposing each other and providing a raised surface along which said cord may be moved when it is engaged .
7.     *(Original)* A scrubbing device according to Claim 1, wherein said at least one retaining slit is oriented to be substantially parallel to said slot.

8.     *(Original)* A scrubbing device according to Claim 1, wherein there are a plurality of retaining slits.
9.     *(Original)* A scrubbing device according to Claim 8, wherein there are two retaining slits, and wherein each of said two retaining slits has a different width.
10.    *(Original)* A scrubbing device according to Claim 1, wherein at least one of said at least one retaining slits is lined with a non-skid material.
11.    *(Original)* A scrubbing device according to Claim 10, wherein said non-skid material is rubber.
12.    *(Original)* A scrubbing device according to Claim 5, wherein at least one of said retaining slits is formed in said upper end of said handle at a shoulder of said outwardly flaring terminus of said handle.
13.    *(Original)* A scrubbing device according to Claim 1, wherein said handle has at least one massage boss thereon.
14.    *(Original)* A scrubbing device according to Claim 1, wherein at least a portion of said handle is covered with an exfoliation mat.

15. (Original) A scrubbing device according to Claim 1, wherein said rearward side of said handle has at least one massage boss thereon.
16. (Currently Amended) A scrubbing tool, comprising:
- a. a scrubbing material, said scrubbing material having an attaching cord affixed thereto; and,
  - b. a handle, at least a portion of said handle being adapted for grasping by a user, said handle having at least
    - (1) an upper end,
    - (2) a rearward face,
    - (3) a front face,
    - (4) a periphery,
    - (5) a slot placed within said handle within said upper end of said handle and proximate to a terminus thereof, said slot having a terminus that extends to said periphery of said handle, wherein said slot is configured to accommodate said attaching cord of said scrubbing material, and,
    - (6) at least one retaining slit placed within said handle proximate to said slot, each of said at least one retaining slits being oriented at an angle of greater than about 90° with respect to said slot, said retaining slit at least for removably engaging said attaching cord after said cord is passed through said slot, said attaching cord urging said scrubbing material against said

front face of said handle proximate to said longitudinal retaining slit when  
said attaching cord is so engaged with said retaining slit.

17. *(Original)* A scrubbing device, according to Claim 16, wherein said attaching cord is selected from a group consisting of string, twine, a ribbon, a metal chain, a plastic chain, a rope, and an elastic band.
18. *(Original)* A scrubbing device, according to Claim 16, wherein said scrubbing material is selected from a group consisting of a sponge, a mesh netting, a washcloth, and a brush.
19. *(Original)* A scrubbing device, according to Claim 16, wherein said handle is elongated and said upper end of said handle is outwardly flared at its terminus.
20. *(Original)* A scrubbing device according to Claim 16, wherein there are two retaining slits, and wherein each of said two retaining slits has a different width.